

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 01824 251758Z
ACTION EUR-12

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O P 251730Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9286
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
USMISSION NATO PRIORITY
USMISSION UN

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR GR CY TU OVIP (CLIFFORD, CLARK M)
SUBJECT: REACTION TO CLIFFORD MISSION

REF: ATHENS 1756

1. THE CLIFFORD MISSIONS VISIT CONTINUES TO RECEIVE ATTENTION BY THE GREEK MEDIA BUT SOMEWHAT LESS INTENSELY THAN EARLIER. THE MAIN FOCUS IN THE PRESS TODAY (FEBRUARY 25) WAS THE MEETING OF YESTERDAY BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS. ALL PAPERS PICKED UP THE UPI REPORT FROM NICOSIA WHICH SUGGESTED THAT CLIFFORD'S REMARK THAT THE ARCHBISHOP HAD BEEN "VERY FRANK" MEANT "THEY DISAGREED." SEVERAL PAPERS MADE THIS THEIR HEADLINE FOR THE STORY.

2. ALL MORNING, AND A FEW AFTERNOON, PAPERS QUOTE THE WASHINGTON POST AND INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE THAT
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 01824 251758Z

"AMERICAN OFFICIALS IN ANKARA HAVE STATED THAT THE US BASES IN TURKEY ARE OF NO USE ANY MORE. THE BASES DO NOT CONSTITUTE A FUNDAMENTAL BARGAINING LEVER IN THE HANDS OF THE TURKS...OBSERVATION OF SOVIET MILITARY ACTIVITIES CAN BE ACHIEVED NOW THROUGH OTHER MEANS..."

3. TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADER DENKTASH'S RECENT REMARKS

TO NICOSIA'S SIMERINI ON WHAT THE TURKISH CYPRIOT SIDE WOULD SEEK AT THE MARCH 31 VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ARE CARRIED WIDELY AND PRESENTED AS SHOWING FURTHER TURKISH INTRANSIGENCE--THUS CASTING A SHADOW ON THE EFFORTS OF THE CLIFFORD MISSION. THE TWO COMMUNIST NEWSPAPERS REPORT FROM NICOSIA THAT MR. CLIFFORD HAS SOUGHT TO PRESSURE MAKARIOS INTO WITHDRAWING FROM POLITICAL LIFE.

4. IN ANOTHER EDITORIAL, PRO-GOVERNMENT (INDEPENDENT KATHIMERINI TODAY AGAIN DISCUSSED THE THREAT FROM TURKEY. IT WARNED THAT TURKEY PERSISTS IN COVETING THE HELLENIC AREAS OF THE AEGEAN, WITH PRIORITY EVEN OVER CYPRUS, YET LINKING THE TWO PROBLEMS "ORGANICALLY", WHILE CALLING FOR PASSAGE OF THE US-TURKISH DCA, BUT DENYING ANY LINK BETWEEN IT AND CYPRUS. THE EDITORIAL MAINTAINS THE TURKS HAVE NOW REVEALED THE TRUE PURPOSE OF THE INVASION OF CYPRUS IN 1974--EXPANSION INTO THE GREEK AREA, I.E. CYPRUS AND THE AEGEAN. AND IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY THREAT FROM THE NORTH, THE TURKISH URGENCY FOR PASSAGE OF THE DCA CAN ONLY MEAN THEY WANT THE ARMS TO SUPPORT THEIR EXPANSIONIST DESIGNS. THE CLIFFORD MISSION HAD BEEN USEFUL, THE EDITORIAL CONTINUES, BECAUSE IT HELPED TO CLARIFY THINGS FOR EVERYBODY. ONLY WASHINGTON CAN BRING EFFECTIVE PRESSURE TO BEAR ON TURKEY TO ABANDON ITS DESIGNS. THE MOMENT OF TRUTH FOR THE NEW AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION HAS COME.

5. PRO-GOVERNMENT VRADYNI STATES IN ITS EDITORIAL THAT IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO DRAW CONCLUSIONS REGARDING WHAT MIGHT RESULT FROM THE CLIFFORD MISSION. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ATHENS 01824 251758Z

LIBERAL, OPPOSITION TO VIMA CARRIES A SHORT FRONT PAGE ITEM TAKING EXCEPTION TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S HAVING SENT MESSAGES THROUGH CLIFFORD TO BOTH MAKARIOS AND DENKTASH"...AS IF THERE WERE TWO LEADERS IN INDEPENDENT CYPRUS" WHOM HE SHOULD TREAT AS EQUALS. COMMUNIST (KKE-INTERIOR AVGHI WRITES THAT IT HAS INFORMATION FROM US JOURNALISTS AND OTHER SOURCES THAT CLIFFORD AGREED IN ANKARA WITH THE NEED TO LIFT THE EMBARGO AND TO KEEP THE DCA SEPARATE FROM THE CYPRUS ISSUE (I.E. HE ADOPTED THE TURKISH POSITION). RECALLING AN EARLIER EDITORIAL SEVERAL DAYS AGO, IT COMMENTS WE NOW HAVE THE "KISSINGER PLATE WITHOUT THE CARTER SMILE." THE ALLIED FRAMEWORK WILL NOT PROVIDE THE SOLUTION, REASONS AVGHI, AND THEREFORE GREECE MUST SEEK A SETTLEMENT IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. COMMUNIST (KKE-EXTERIOR) RIZOSPASTIS IN ITS EDITORIAL TODAY REITERATES ITS POSITION THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE CLIFFORD MISSION IS NOTTO EXPLORE THE SITUATION IN THIS AREA, BUT INSTEAD TO PROMOTE "US-NATO IMPERIALISM" AND TO FORCE GREECE'S RETURN TO THE NATO ALLIANCE.

6. SAMPLE HEADLINES/CAPTIONS FOLLOW: PRO-GOVERNMENT
ACROPOLIS: "MAKARIOS AND CLIFFORD OPTIMISTIC AFTER THEIR
TALK YESTERDAY--'UNITED PRESS' MAINTAINS THEY DISAGREED;"
PRO-GOVT KATHIMERINI: "TOWARDS IMPROVEMENT IN
US-CYPRUS RELATIONS--INFORMATIVE MAKARIOS AND CLIFFORD
CONVERSATION--TODAY DENKTASH INTRANSIGENT AGAIN;"
EXTREME-RIGHT ELEFTHEROS COSMOS: "THE AMERICAN ENVOY EXTENDS
HIS STAY ON CYPRUS--DISAGREEMENT IN THE VIEWS OF MAKARIOS-
CLIFFORD--AND DIFFERENCES OF OPINION BETWEEN ATHENS AND ANKARA
ON THE AEGEAN;" AVGHI: "USA-TURKEY RELATIONS--CONTRADICTIONARY
APPRAISALS ABOUT THE MISSION OF CLARK CLIFFORD" ALSO
"MAKARIOS SATISFIED WITH HIS TALK WITH CLIFFORD;"
RIZOSPASTIS: "THE USA AND NATO SEEK THE WITHDRAWAL OF
MAKARIOS BECAUSE HE STANDS AS AN OBSTACLE TO THEIR
IMPERIALISTIC PLANS--NEW EXPLOSION OF INTRANSIGENCE BY
DENKTASH;" PRO-GOVT VRADYNI: "CARTER SAYS IT IS A
MORAL DUTY FOR THE USA TO HAVE THE CYPRUS PROBLEM RESOLVED;"
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PAGE 04 ATHENS 01824 251758Z

OPPOSITION TA NEA: "MESSAGE FROM CARTER TO THE CYPRIOT
PRESIDENT--MAKARIOS AND CLIFFORD HAVE DISAGREED--NICOSIA
DETERMINED ON ITS POSITIONS."
KUBISCH

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